

COUNTYWIDE RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
OCTOBER 7, 2013
MEETING NOTES

Present: James Krzyminski, Paul Lofgren, Vernard McBeth, Mark Pharaoh, Chris Richardson, Michael Waters, Gabe Albornoz [Rec], Jeff Bourne [Rec], Morton Davis [Commission on Aging], Susan Hoffmann [Rec].

Absent: Rose Alvarez, Erik Johnson, Ron MacNab, David Magill, George Schlapo, Sean Thomas Smith, Felecia Wilson, Steve Beach [CUPF], Mary Bradford [Parks], Christine Brett [Parks], Tony DeVaul [Park Police], Ursula Hermann [MCPS], Kamran Rasul [Commission on Disabilities].

Guests: David Vismara [Parks]

Chair Report – Chris Richardson

- Chair Richardson welcomed everyone and introduced guests.
- Review of June 3 and September 9 Meeting Notes was tabled due to lack of quorum.

Rec Update – Gabe Albornoz

- Attended meeting on Wall Park and expansion of Kennedy Shriver Aquatic Center – both part of the White Flint sector plan. Audience had many concerns:
 - aquatics parents concerned that the pool may go down for a time
 - when will parking lot be razed?
 - safety of a garage vs a parking lot at 5am
 - 80% of existing building will remain
 - additional square footage will be added for a large leisure area
 - diving training will be incorporated into new complex
 - addition of two racquetball/handball courts
- Montgomery Dive Club did not renew insurance due to missed deadlines. May have to scale back program. Will inform public and work with divers as best they can.
- Montgomery County just completed three-year strategic plan on senior services Countywide. Will provide what he presented to senior sub-cabinet. Will be asking for additional positions in FY 15, including a request for WiFi. Seniors are uncomfortable at private gyms – could be Montgomery County Recreation's wheelhouse. Seniors prefer instructors to be closer to their age. There is a call for expansion of services at night, pairing events with wine, the AFI, etc. Received good feedback from those 55+.
- Excel Beyond the Bell doing phenomenally well. Waiting lists have formed. Challenge is transportation. Montgomery County Recreation will have to take on costs.

Parks Update – David Vismara

- Reported on nature centers, Brookside Gardens, all things horticultural
- October 18 -- Pumpkin Fun
- November 29 – Annual Light Show
- During renovations at Brookside, will have to close part of parking lot, which will impact programs. Will lose 140 spaces, leaving only 30.

- November 20 – Trees Matter Symposium on preserving trees
- Community gardens operate 12 months of the year at 11 locations throughout Montgomery County.

Local Board Reports

- Eastern County, Mark Pharaoh – no meeting. FDA started Employee Recreation Association and donated spin bikes to East County and Praisner. Burtonsville Day was very successful. Burtonsville Athletic Association might be able to use Good Hope Recreation Center. Would like to discuss public/private partnerships at a future meeting.
- Mid County, Paul Lofgren – Power Point presentation on the Wheaton Community Recreation Center/Wheaton Library/Gilchrist Diversity Center with Jeff Bourne.
- Upper County – Vernard McBeth – introduced by Gabe Albornoz. No report – haven't met since June.

Ex Officio Reports

- Community Use of Public Facilities, Steve Beach – absent
- Commission on Aging, Morton Davis – wants to bring issue of driver's license retesting to Montgomery County Community Recreation Centers. Jeff Bourne will attend next Commission on Aging meeting.
- MCPS, Ursula Hermann – absent
- M-NCPPC Police, Chief Tony DeVaul – absent

Old/New Business – Chris Richardson

- October 17 – Planning Board will hold a hearing on the Historic Preservation Commission's recommendations on the Wheaton Community Recreation Center complex. Chair Richardson will send a letter on behalf of the Board supporting moving forward with the project while finding a way to commemorate the historic nature of what occurred in the Wheaton Center.
- Montgomery County Recreation Employee Awards report will be made at November meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.